

In re Patent Application of:
JONES ET AL.
Serial No. 10/629,449
Filed: JULY 29, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful and thorough examination of the present application, for correctly allowing Claims 19-21, for correctly indicating that dependent Claims 6, 7, and 9 recite patentable subject matter, and for extending all courtesies during a telephonic interview of November 1, 2007.

To advance prosecution of the present application and in accordance with the helpful suggestion of the Examiner, Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the patentable subject matter of dependent Claim 9 and intervening dependent Claims 5 and 8, all now canceled. Applicants have also canceled Claims 11-18 without prejudice to Applicants' right to file a continuing application directed to their subject matter. Applicants have also amended Claims 6, 7, 10, and 19 to correct a minor informality.

Applicants have added new independent Claim 22, which includes the patentable subject matter of former dependent Claims 6 and intervening dependent Claim 5. Applicants have also added new independent Claim 25, which includes the patentable subject matter of former dependent Claims 7 and intervening dependent Claim 5.

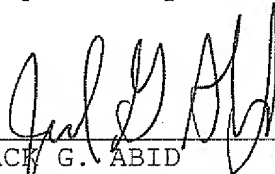
Accordingly, it is submitted that independent Claim 1 and new independent Claims 22 and 25 are patentable over the prior art. Their respective dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no further discussion herein. Applicants also submit that no new issues are raised.

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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments presented above, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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